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MORNING PAPERS : Thursday, 3rd April, 1947.
EVENING PAPERS : Thursday, 3rd April, 1947.

BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT STATISTICS.

JANUARY, 1947.

1. GENERAL.

This summary, issued by the Commonwealth Statistician, (Dr. Roland Wilson), covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, during the month of January, 1947, and the seven months ended January, 1947.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The number of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. The inclusion of claims rejected - see 2(i) - completes the coverage of all persons applying for benefit, irrespective of whether their claims are approved or rejected.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependants on such beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services. The details given in Sections 4, 6 and 7 refer to admittances and exits notified during the period shown and not to admittances and exits which actually occurred during that period.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries, the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. SUMMARY.

(i) Claims Rejected: The number of applicants for benefit whose claims were rejected during the seven months ended January, 1947, is shown in the table below. No further dissection of these rejected claims has been made but it is hoped to extract further information in the near future.

CLAIMS REJECTED - SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY, 1947 : STATES.

S t a t e	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	T o t a l	
				Number	Percent of All Claims.
New South Wales (a)	2,693	1,121	45	3,859	18.0
Victoria ..	3,374	1,392	45	4,811	19.3
Queensland ..	10,670	805	37	11,512	29.1
South Australia (b)	2,285	838	19	3,142	41.5
Western Australia	4,841	528	23	5,392	29.3
Tasmania ..	79	223	4	306	15.3
<u>TOTAL:</u>	23,942	4,907	173	29,022	25.5

- (a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Claims Admitted, Exits, Persons on Benefit: The following table shows for the year ended June, 1946, and for the months from July, 1946, to January, 1947, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and persons remaining on benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946, AND MONTHS OF JULY, 1946, TO JANUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Period	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons

CLAIMS ADMITTED.

1946 -									
Year ended									
June	65,455	12,289	33,178	6,724	242	194	98,875	19,207	118,082
July (a)	9,071	2,494	3,334	666	57	17	12,462	3,177	15,639
August (a)	3,875	164	4,199	917	56	31	8,130	1,112	9,242
September (a)	2,791	109	3,385	759	27	22	6,203	890	7,093
October (a)	3,062	94	3,507	870	68	25	6,637	989	7,626
November (a)	15,790	973	4,271	1,052	189	23	20,250	2,048	22,298
December (a)	8,535	296	2,559	627	133	12	11,227	935	12,162
1947 -									
January (a)	4,550	129	2,130	440	34	2	6,714	571	7,285

DISCONTINUANCES.

1946 -									
Year ended									
June	58,879	11,992	27,550	5,432	186	54	86,615	17,478	104,093
July (a)	9,079	2,483	2,843	536	37	8	11,959	3,027	14,986
August (a)	4,060	193	3,775	777	42	16	7,877	986	8,863
September (a)	2,928	145	3,235	650	24	8	6,187	803	6,990
October (a)	3,057	101	3,352	738	35	24	6,444	863	7,307
November (a)	9,160	811	4,220	944	66	13	13,446	1,768	15,214
December (a)	4,106	142	2,338	621	34	8	6,478	771	7,249
1947 -									
January (a)	6,644	214	2,103	455	101	6	8,848	675	9,523

PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH.

1946 -									
June	6,576	297	5,628	1,292	56	140	12,260	1,729	13,989
July (a)	6,568	308	6,119	1,422	76	149	12,763	1,879	14,642
August (a)	6,383	279	6,543	1,562	90	164	13,016	2,005	15,021
September (a)	6,246	243	6,693	1,671	93	178	13,032	2,092	15,124
October (a)	6,251	236	6,848	1,803	126	179	13,225	2,218	15,443
November (a)	12,881	398	6,899	1,911	249	189	20,029	2,498	22,527
December (a)	17,310	552	7,120	1,917	348	193	24,778	2,662	27,440
1947 -									
January (a)	15,216	467	7,147	1,902	281	189	22,644	2,558	25,202

(a) Subject to revision.

NOTE: For monthly figures from July, 1945, to June, 1946, see October, 1946 Bulletin.

3. BENEFITS PAID.

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during January, 1947, and the seven months ended January, 1947, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING JANUARY, 1947, AND THE SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY, 1947 : STATES.

State	Benefits paid during January, 1947.				Benefits paid during seven months ended January, 1947.			
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
N.S.W. (a)	25,618	26,476	981	53,075	99,685	153,629	2,906	256,220
Victoria	59,649	19,742	2,187	81,578	120,766	107,987	3,882	232,635
Q'ld.	53,067	10,085	908	64,060	208,331	58,620	2,831	269,782
S.A. (b)	2,743	4,377	85	7,205	14,361	42,995	767	58,123
W.A.	9,978	5,040	305	15,323	80,045	34,566	1,434	116,045
Tasmania	833	3,209	195	4,237	5,671	19,971	1,219	26,861
TOTAL:	151,888	68,929	4,661	225,478	520,859	417,768	13,039	959,666

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED.

(i) Duration: The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the cases of benefit whose discontinuance was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, is shown in the following table:-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING THE SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Duration of Benefit Weeks	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Less than 1	8,831	1,320	10,151	2,060	326	2,386	10,913	1,646	12,559
1 and under 2	10,551	2,014	12,565	3,487	601	4,088	14,078	2,620	16,698
2 " " 3	4,014	142	4,156	3,015	535	3,550	7,083	684	7,767
3 " " 4	2,893	107	3,000	2,586	563	3,149	5,518	674	6,192
4 " " 5	2,232	95	2,327	2,019	455	2,474	4,308	556	4,864
5 " " 9	7,468	269	7,737	4,719	1,048	5,767	12,310	1,339	13,649
9 " " 13	2,588	117	2,705	2,038	550	2,588	4,664	681	5,345
13 " " 26	3,151	196	3,347	2,367	682	3,049	5,553	896	6,449
26 and over	1,014	47	1,061	1,278	299	1,577	2,304	366	2,670
TOTAL:	42,742	4,307	47,049	23,569	5,059	28,628	66,731	9,462	76,193

(a) Includes Special Benefits (420 males, 96 females, 516 persons).

Of the 76,193 benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, 28,113 (37 per cent) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 32,977 (43 per cent) for four weeks and over, 39,169 (51 per cent) for three weeks and over, 46,936 (62 per cent) for two weeks and over, 63,634 (84 per cent) for one week and over, whilst 12,559 (16 per cent) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Twenty-two per cent of unemployment and eight per cent of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 57 and 35 respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation: Of the 47,049 cases of unemployment benefit whose termination was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, 43,422 (92.3 per cent) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has resumed employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 1,492 (3.2 per cent) transferred to Sickness Benefit or to another district and 1,184 (2.5 per cent) failed or refused to accept an offer of employment.

Of the 28,628 cases of sickness benefit whose termination was notified, 24,532 (85.7 per cent) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 1,292 (4.5 per cent) were classified as permanently incapacitated which, in practically every case, means that they were transferred to Invalid Pensions, 1,163 (4.1 per cent) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district and 541 (1.9 per cent) died.

5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF JANUARY, 1947.

TOTAL PERSONS.

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment: The proportion of persons on benefit at 25th January, 1947, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 102 per 10,000, comprising 63 unemployment, 37 sickness and 2 special cases per 10,000. The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 25TH JANUARY, 1947, PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA.

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment.			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males ..	per 10,000 males	84	40	2	126
Females ..	per 10,000 females	7	28	3	38
Persons ...	per 10,000 persons	63	37	2	102

(ii) State Totals: The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 25th January, 1947:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 25TH JANUARY, 1947 : STATES.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		T o t a l		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
N.S.W.(a)	2,668	68	2,803	629	81	47	5,552	744	6,296
Vic.	3,223	101	1,895	577	113	46	5,231	724	5,955
Q'ld.	7,262	228	950	268	53	33	8,265	529	8,794
S.A. (b)	330	4	587	165	9	14	926	183	1,109
W.A.	1,640	63	556	170	18	23	2,214	256	2,470
Tas.	93	3	356	93	7	26	456	122	578
TOTAL:	15,216	467	7,147	1,902	281	189	22,644	2,558	25,202

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory:

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) Ages: Distribution of persons on benefit at 25th January, 1947, according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE : PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 25TH JANUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Grouped Age(as at 31st Dec., 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			T o t a l (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 years	660	123	783	444	308	832	1,104	523	1,627
20 - 24 years	1,654	145	1,799	604	495	1,099	2,258	653	2,911
25 - 29 years	1,686	48	1,734	551	217	768	2,239	276	2,515
30 - 34 years	1,680	39	1,719	637	147	784	2,324	205	2,529
35 - 39 years	1,386	21	1,407	668	140	808	2,058	186	2,244
40 - 44 years	1,662	27	1,689	661	144	805	2,325	196	2,521
45 - 49 years	1,609	23	1,632	798	169	967	2,408	223	2,631
50 - 54 years	1,521	21	1,542	907	121	1,028	2,431	172	2,603
55 - 59 years	1,674	19	1,693	1,056	78	1,134	2,740	113	2,853
60 - 64 years	1,684	1	1,685	821	3	824	2,757	11	2,768
TOTAL:	15,216	467	15,683	7,147	1,902	2,049	22,644	2,558	25,202

(a) Includes Special Benefits (281 males, 189 females, 470 persons)

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF JANUARY, 1947.

(i) Cause of Unemployment: The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, and by those who were on benefit at 25th January, 1947.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING
SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY, 1947 - AUSTRALIA.

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during seven months ended Jan., 1947.			On benefit at 25th January, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons ..	480	10	490	128	2	130
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness ..	1,334	51	1,385	609	17	626
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment ..	4,236	149	4,385	1,467	23	1,490
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel etc., relieving worker only	1,634	133	1,767	604	36	640
Other discharges, including inadequately defined ..	278	9	287	85	-	85
Went off owing to -						
Power rationing ..	8,221	3,012	11,233	247	42	289
Shortage of materials ..	1,742	40	1,782	462	10	472
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment ..	12,848	354	13,202	3,238	62	3,300
Seasonal work ..	5,461	130	5,591	3,528	99	3,627
Casual work ..	4,878	49	4,927	1,607	16	1,623
Other reasons, including inadequately defined ..	717	21	738	213	12	225
Inadequately defined ..	5	-	5	328	6	334
Dismissed -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy ..	2,929	178	3,107	1,122	67	1,189
Other quits, including inadequately defined ..	1,976	117	2,093	639	37	676
Not previously employed -						
Employers, workers on own account ..	704	7	711	283	3	286
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	2,034	43	2,077	640	19	659
Other ..	30	33	63	16	16	32
TOTAL:	49,507	4,336	53,843	15,216	467	15,683

(ii) Industrial Groups: In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, and of those on benefit at 25th January, 1947:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING SEVEN MONTHS ENDED
JANUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during seven months ended January, 1947.			On benefit at 25th January, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying	4,432	9	4,441	2,076	3	2,079
Other Primary Production ..	569	-	569	196	-	196
Coal Mining ..	916	-	916	49	-	49
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	575	-	575	137	-	137
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding ..	13,056	352	13,408	3,557	51	3,608
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	2,488	27	2,515	321	6	327
Textiles and articles of dress ..	1,088	2,120	3,208	137	67	204
Food, drink and tobacco ..	5,629	446	6,075	2,910	116	3,026
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	1,523	44	1,567	210	-	210
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	3,018	267	3,285	660	14	674
Building and Construction ..	3,563	1	3,564	1,168	-	1,168
Transport and Communication ..	4,048	70	4,118	777	9	786
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	2,902	227	3,129	966	42	1,008
Finance and Property ..	156	9	165	68	1	69
Public Administration and Professional	1,951	115	2,066	769	37	806
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,733	578	2,311	592	85	677
Other ..	1,860	71	1,931	623	36	659
TOTAL:	49,507	4,336	53,843	15,216	467	15,683

The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 25th January, 1947, in the principal industrial groups were:-

Founding, Engineering, etc.: (Commonwealth 3,557 males) - Victoria 2,163, New South Wales 857, Q'ld. 217, W.A. 160, S.A. 153:

Food, Drink, etc., Factories: (Commonwealth 2,910 males) - Q'ld. 2,530, New South Wales 150, Victoria 118:

Agriculture, Pastoral, etc.: (Commonwealth 2,076 males) - Q'ld. 1,523, New South Wales 374:

Building and Construction: (Commonwealth 1,168 males) - Q'ld. 630, New South Wales 223, W.A. 144, Victoria 139:

Wholesale and Retail Trade: (Commonwealth 966 males) - Q'ld. 444, New South Wales 198, W.A. 195:

Transport and Communication: (Commonwealth 777 males) - Q'ld. 397, W.A. 178, New South Wales 109:

Public Administration, etc.: (Commonwealth 769 males) - Q'ld. 439, W.A. 126, Victoria 124:

(a) Defence - Civilian employees: (Commonwealth 470 males) - Q'ld. 306.

(iii) Metropolitan and Other: Unemployment benefits whose admission was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, and those current at 25th January, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during seven months ended January, 1947.				On Benefit at 25th January, 1947.			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	2,795	41	4,263	221	1,325	9	1,343	59
Victoria	9,881	358	1,717	29	2,825	91	398	10
Queensland	8,451	1,900	12,008	960	1,963	25	5,299	203
S.A. (c)	692	4	325	5	279	4	51	-
W.A.	7,176	744	1,916	71	1,432	52	208	11
Tasmania	212	2	71	1	80	2	13	1
TOTAL:	29,207	3,049	20,300	1,287	7,904	183	7,312	284

(a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Suburban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Service (Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other". In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

7. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JANUARY, 1947, AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF JANUARY, 1947.

(i) Metropolitan and Other: Sickness benefits whose admission was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, and those current at 25th January, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during seven months ended January, 1947.				On Benefit at 25th January, 1947.			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	4,206	1,168	4,101	583	1,487	416	1,316	213
Victoria	3,870	1,257	2,284	473	1,296	430	599	147
Queensland	1,644	416	2,148	313	430	162	520	106
S.A. (c)	1,794	377	1,003	157	387	116	200	49
W.A.	1,446	440	941	179	354	131	202	39
Tasmania	409	100	743	121	179	44	177	49
TOTAL:	13,369	3,758	11,220	1,826	4,133	1,299	3,014	603

a) See footnote to Table 6(iii). (b) Includes A.C.T. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Nature of Sickness: The following table shows the principal causes of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, of persons whose admission was notified during the seven months ended January, 1947, and of those on benefit at 25th January, 1947:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING SEVEN MONTHS
ENDED JANUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Nature of Sickness	Claims admitted during seven months ended January, 1947.			On Benefit at 25th January, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1,726	377	2,103	419	141	560
Cancer ..	178	21	199	70	12	82
Other Tumours ..	210	116	326	69	49	118
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	1,571	361	1,932	592	189	781
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming Organs ..	125	116	241	48	49	97
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	2,168	692	2,860	731	278	1,009
Circulatory System ..	2,050	245	2,295	876	107	983
Respiratory System ..	3,038	509	3,547	768	150	918
Digestive System ..	5,215	1,148	6,363	1,245	261	1,506
Genito-Urinary System ..	978	384	1,362	302	119	421
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	485	485	-	183	183
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	1,464	269	1,733	340	62	402
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	661	130	791	203	50	253
Other Diseases (including ill-defined conditions) ..	314	154	468	77	59	136
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ..	2,380	224	2,604	849	90	939
Other Injuries, etc. ..	2,249	207	2,456	477	60	537
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	167	119	286	53	39	92
Other (including not stated) ..	95	27	122	28	4	32
TOTAL:	24,589	5,584	30,173	7,147	1,902	9,049

(iii) Industrial Groups: The distribution according to main industrial groups, of persons on sickness benefit at 25th January, 1947. is shown in the following table:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 25TH JANUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	616	17	633
Other Primary Production ..	170	-	170
Coal Mining ..	296	-	296
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	118	-	118
Factories and Industrial -			
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding ..	1,158	81	1,239
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	266	13	279
Textiles and articles of Dress ..	250	332	582
Food, drink and tobacco ..	510	110	620
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	252	13	265
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	607	121	728
Building and Construction ..	849	-	849
Transport and Communication ..	695	51	746
Commerce and Finance -			
Wholesale and retail trade ..	627	326	953
Finance and property ..	49	21	70
Public Administration and Professional ..	289	290	579
Personal and Domestic Service ..	345	520	865
Other ..	50	7	57
TOTAL:	7,147	1,902	9,049

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2nd April, 1947.